

## **MINUTES**

Oakdale, California  
September 2, 2014

The Board of Directors of the Oakdale Irrigation District invited all to recite the Pledge of Allegiance and then met in Regular Session at the hour of 9:00 a.m. Upon roll call, there were present:

Directors: Steve Webb, President  
Herman Doornenbal, Vice President  
Frank Clark  
Al Bairos, Jr.

Absent: Jack D. Alpers

Staff Present: Steve Knell, General Manager/Secretary  
Kathy Cook, Chief Financial Officer  
Gary Jernigan, Contract/Special Projects Manager  
Jason Jones, Support Services Manager  
Eric Thorburn, Water Operations Manager

### **ADDITION OR DELETION OF AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no additions or deletions of Agenda Items.

Director Webb stated that he is going to move himself from the Alternate position to the Committee Member position on the Water/Engineering Committee and move Director Alpers to the Alternate position.

Director Webb also stated that Action Item No. 9 that was reported in the newspaper as a water sales only item which was not correct. He stated that this item is a presentation about ground fallowing and a level three drought, if that occurs next year. It is not about selling water.

### **ACTION TO TAKE VARIOUS ITEMS OUT OF SEQUENCE**

There were no items taken out of sequence.

At the hour of 9:02 a.m. the Board welcomed public comment.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT ITEM NO. 1**

Odessa Haynes, appeared on behalf of Dani McAfee who resides at 11118 Victory Avenue, Oakdale. Ms. Haynes stated that Ms. McAfee received a theft of water letter dated August 26, 2014 and she felt that the letter was not correct. General Manager Steve Knell stated that this matter would be placed on the next Water/Engineering Committee Meeting for

October 7, 2014 for discussion. Director Webb directed staff to continue providing her with irrigation water and further stated that she did not have to pay the fine until her matter had been heard by the Water/Engineering Committee on October 7, 2014.

There being no further public comment, Public Comment closed at 9:05 a.m.

**CONSENT ITEMS**  
**ITEM NOS. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7**

**ITEM NO. 2**  
**APPROVE THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MINUTES**  
**OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 19, 2014 AND**  
**RESOLUTION NOS. AMENDED 2014-53, 2014-68 AND 2014-69**

A motion was made by Director Clark, seconded by Director Bairos, and unanimously supported to approve the Board of Directors' Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 19, 2014 and Resolution Nos. Amended 2014-53, 2014-68, and 2014-69.

**ITEM NO. 3**  
**APPROVE OAKDALE IRRIGATION**  
**DISTRICT STATEMENT OF OBLIGATIONS**

A motion was made by Director Clark, seconded by Director Bairos, and unanimously supported to approve the Oakdale Irrigation District Statement of Obligations.

**ITEM NO. 4**  
**APPROVE ASSIGNMENT OF**  
**CAPITOL WORK ORDER NUMBERS**

A motion was made by Director Clark, seconded by Director Bairos, and unanimously supported to approve the assignment of the following Capitol Work Order Numbers:

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Project Description</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>	<u>Work Order No.</u>
Weller Pipeline	Remove and upgrade 3 – turnout gates with 12" Fresno 101C slide gates.	\$6,900	2014-057
Palmer Lateral	Remove and upgrade turnout including a precast MBI structure, 18" Fresno 101C slide gate, stilling well and approximately 20 LF of 18" 100 PSI PIP PVC.	\$14,000	2014-059
Lower Cometa Lateral	Remove and upgrade 2 – turnouts including precast MBI structures, 2-15" Fresno 101C slide gates, 2 – stilling well assemblies and approximately 40 LF of 15" 100 PSI PIP PVC.	\$22,800	2014-060

**ITEM NO. 5**  
**APPROVE PURCHASE OF ONE (1) NEW TRUCK MOUNTED**  
**AIR COMPRESSOR FROM SNAP-ON TOOLS (BUDGETED)**

A motion was made by Director Clark, seconded by Director Bairos, and unanimously supported to approve the purchase of one (1) new truck mounted air compressor from Snap-On Tools (Budgeted).

**ITEM NO. 6**  
**APPROVE REQUEST AUTHORIZING GENERAL MANAGER TO**  
**EXECUTE AN AUCTION AGREEMENT WITH MULROONEY AUCTION COMPANY**

A motion was made by Director Clark, seconded by Director Bairos, and unanimously supported to authorize the General Manager to execute an Auction Agreement with Mulrooney Auction Company.

**ITEM NO. 7**  
**APPROVE WORK RELEASE NO. 042 TO PROFESSIONAL**  
**SERVICES CONTRACT 2009-PSA-015 WITH GIULIANI & KULL**  
**FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO PREPARE AN IRRIGATION**  
**EASEMENT FOR THE KEARNEY LATERAL THROUGH THE LANDS OF BAIROS**

A motion was made by Director Clark, seconded by Director Bairos, and unanimously supported to approve Work Release No. 042 to Professional Services Contract 2009-PSA-015 with Giuliani & Kull for professional services to prepare an irrigation easement for the Kearney Lateral through the Lands of Bairos.

**ACTION ITEMS**  
**ITEM NO. 8, 9, 10**

**ITEM NO. 8**  
**REVIEW AND TAKE POSSIBLE ACTION TO**  
**RE-ESTABLISH IRRIGATION TO LEONARD BROWN (APN: 010-040-010 )**

Dave Brown, who is the son of Leonard Brown, the legal property owner, will be present at the Board Meeting on his behalf. Based on documentation available in the APN file, the flooding of Warnerville Road as a result of Leonard Brown's (APN: 010-040-010) inability to control his irrigation water has been an issue dating as far back as 2002. Staff has had several conversations with Mr. Brown and sent multiple letters over the past several years giving Mr. Brown notice that curtailment or termination of OID water deliveries may occur if flooding of the road continued. Given the current drought situation and in accordance with the January 23, 2014 OID Water User Notice, Mr. Brown was informed following the first flooding incident in July that water flowing down and across roadways would not be tolerated and that the next incident may result in the loss of water for the remainder of the season. A copy of the June 19, 2014 correspondence has been attached for reference.

Although some minor flooding along the shoulder of the roadway did occur periodically after the initial incident and correspondence in June, Mr. Brown's turnout was finally locked shut after half of Warnerville Road was flooded on August 17<sup>th</sup>. A follow-up letter (attached) was sent on August 20<sup>th</sup>

notifying Mr. Brown that while deliveries had been allowed to continue to the remainder of the property, as long as reasonable use and control was exercised, the turnout gate that serves that portion of the property where the continuous flooding has occurred would remain locked shut for the remainder of the year. Any request for a variance to that action taken by staff in accordance with OID policy would need to be addressed by the OID Board of Directors. Since that time, Mr. Brown has done some work on his property to clean the private drain along Warnerville Road and has requested that irrigation service to this area be reestablished. In an effort to expedite Mr. Brown's request, this item has been brought to the full Board of Directors for action prior to review by the OID Water Committee. OID staff now seeks direction from the full Board of Directors as to how they wish to proceed.

Attorney Claudia Aceves appeared on behalf of Mr. Leonard Brown. Mr. Dave Brown was also in attendance.

A motion was made by Director Bairos, seconded by Director Webb, and unanimously supported to re-establish irrigation to Leonard Brown's parcel (APN: 010-040-010) with the understanding that if there is one more flooding incident his turnout gate will be locked and he will not be afforded an opportunity to appear before the Board again.

**ITEM NO. 9**  
**REVIEW AND TAKE POSSIBLE ACTION TO DIRECT STAFF TO**  
**PREPARE FOLLOWING OPTIONS FOR THE 2014/2015 IRRIGATION SEASON**

The Stanislaus River Basin yields on average 1,050,000 acre feet of water. The winter of 2014 produced a runoff of just over 300,000 acre feet or 28% of normal. From that runoff, SSJID and OID were allocated 220,000 acre feet each under the formula water provisions of the 1988 Agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation. Due to the conservation measures implemented, great management by our DSO's and a heightened awareness of our constituents, OID will actually divert just slightly more than 200,000 acre feet of its allocated water.

If this year's hydrology repeats itself, and depending on whether the Bureau changes its management commitments out of New Melones going forward, New Melones reservoir could be empty by July/ August of 2015 (worst case). If the Bureau implements changes, the storage behind New Melones would be minimal by the end of September 2015. That decision of whether the reservoir goes empty or not in 2015 is, to a large extent, on the backs of the Bureau of Reclamation, again that is, if the hydrology repeats itself. To that end, SSJID and OID sent a joint letter requesting the Bureau take appropriate action in its operations plan for 2015 to avoid such a calamity. See attached letters.

However, if the drought proves to be more severe next year, it may not change the fact that OID and SSJID will be severely challenged in making its water commitments in 2015. There is no water that OID can purchase upstream to be released here for use by OID; OID has the least developed groundwater well system of all irrigation districts in our area, roughly 1/6<sup>th</sup> the capacity of MID and 1/10<sup>th</sup> the capacity of TID; options are limited to address such a shortfall.

Under a worsening hydrology, OID would be forced to implement a zero discharge program under its Surface Water Shortage policy, thereby curtailing all field drainage. A zero

discharge requirement would impact field crops significantly, as field crops rely on water being at the low end of the field to build opportunity time to ensure adequate moisture reaches the plant roots. Eliminating drainage would effectively under irrigate the low 25% of the field causing a significant reduction in productivity and associate landowner financial impacts.

One of the only options available to OID to avoid major crop loss and economic loss to its constituents from a worsening or prolonged drought is fallowing. Staff will present these options for the Board's review and take direction on how to proceed or not with developing a program.

Several members of the public were present Tom Van Ruiten, Tom Orvis of Stanislaus County Farm Bureau, Mary Blanc, Ken Krause, Brian Lemons, Neil Hudson of Stanislaus Water Coalition, Wally Partridge, and Chris Morelli and commented on this agenda item.

A motion was made by Director Bairos, seconded by Director Doornenbal, and unanimously supported to approve the development of the framework for fallowing.

The Board Meeting took a short recess.

President Webb reconvened the meeting and stated that Director Bairos was going to provide some clarification to his motion.

A motion was made by Director Bairos, seconded by Director Doornenbal, and unanimously supported to direct staff to prepare the fallowing options for the 2014/2015 irrigation season, keeping the water in District.

**ITEM NO. 10**  
**REVIEW AND TAKE POSSIBLE ACTION TO ESTABLISH THE DATES**  
**FOR THE INFORMATION MEETINGS/WORKSHOP ON THE PROPOSED**  
**AGRICULTURAL WATER USER CHARGE INCREASE UNDER PROPOSITION 218**

As part of the proposed agricultural water user charge increase the District would like to schedule information meeting(s)/workshop(s) for its constituents.

This item is being brought to the Board to get a recommendation on the scheduling of these meeting(s)/workshop(s) i.e., dates, the number of meetings to be held, and where the meetings should be held.

It is staffs' recommendation that these meetings be held at the District office at 6:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Director Bairos, seconded by Director Clark, and unanimously supported to schedule the information meetings/workshop for October 13, 14, and 15, and 6:00 p.m. at the District Office on a RSVP basis.

## **DISCUSSION ITEM**

### **ITEM NO. 11**

#### **DISCUSSION ON STATUS OF IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 41**

At the last Board meeting the Board requested that an RFP to find a new system manager for Improvement District 41 be brought back to the Board for this meeting. The intent was to give time for the ID to collect the \$375 per lot fee from the remaining 5 “hold-outs” that were keeping the ID from moving forward with an annexation study to the City of Oakdale. The 5 hold-outs are in defiance of the certified vote taken by the ID for that purpose.

Since that time, the 5 hold-outs have dropped to 4. The City of Oakdale has however offered to move forward with the monies on hand, \$13,500, and will begin the study. The hold-outs will continue to be assessed penalties for their lack of payment, but the process will move forward, at least for now.

### **ITEM NO. 12**

#### **COMMUNICATIONS**

General Manager Steve Knell corrected the number of days without a lost time injury accident from 466 to 486.

#### **A. GENERAL MANAGERS REPORT**

##### **Safety Activities**

1. OID has gone 466 days without a lost time injury accident.

##### **Administration Activities**

1. Continue to meet with the Union and employee representatives regarding wages and benefits. Next meeting is September 12<sup>th</sup>.
2. The August 22<sup>nd</sup> stakeholder meeting with the Bureau and their operating plans for 2015 was cancelled and not yet rescheduled.
3. Met with the Bureau in Folsom, along with SSJID, regarding the 1988 Agreement and Warren Act. Not fruitful but a follow up meeting is scheduled for September 12<sup>th</sup>.
4. Involved with staff development and training.
5. A meeting with the City of Brisbane is attempting to be scheduled. Update on their specific area plan.
6. Met with Knights Ferry CSD regarding the services provided by OID.
7. GM will be on vacation from September 17<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>

##### **Contract and Special Project Activities**

1. Two –Mile Bar Tunnel (CEQA & Engineering) – The public comment period ended on July 13, 2014 with very few comments received. Staff has completed all responses to the questions generated by the public and the Corps of Engineers (Corps). The Corps is waiting on the US Fish and Wildlife and the California State Historic Preservation Office to concur with the Corps’ findings. The Planning Department of the Corps is in contact with each of these agencies weekly for any questions and/or agreement. There is no change in the status.

2. Beardsley Recreational Improvements-Phase I & II – The Beardsley Recreational Improvements Project contract work is completed accepted by the USFS. The FERC final report is being drafted now.
3. Paulsell Valley Rehabilitation Project – A second land owner meeting was conducted on June 26, 2014 to discuss the various tunnel options and project development. The third Landowner meeting is tentatively scheduled for the first week in September. Still on schedule. Also, looking at various options for water deliveries to the Paulsell Valley.
4. City of Oakdale Water Recycling Project – A project description was developed and reviewed. No work was performed on this period on this project,
5. Rubicon Expansion (TCC) Project – Completed the Project Description narrative. Working on the Project development to develop a project execution plan for funding, design, construction and commissioning. Quotes for services have been received from three (3) engineering firms with success in obtaining Grant Funding. As soon as project plot plan(s) have been developed, a path forward will be developed with the General Manager and a Work Release will be brought to the Board for approval to proceed with the Grant Application. The grant application for an OES Grant is due in the first quarter of 2015.
6. Fuel Tank Replacement Project – Due to curing of the paint on the tanks, the start of the installation has been delayed until September 9, 2014. The completion will be on or before September 12, 2014.
7. Contract Administration activities on contracts to be renewed and/or issued, Work releases, Request for Proposals and Change Orders for contracts are ongoing.

### **Construction Activities**

1. C&M crews and equipment operators are addressing minor issues on OID facilities, routine maintenance tasks and JSF's generated by Water Dept. staff.
2. Preparing and conducting employee evaluations.
3. Reviewing project close out folders for this past winter's projects.
4. Reviewing and processing JSF's generated by Water Ops. Dept. staff.
5. Assisting Water Ops/Engineering Dept. with various assigned tasks.
6. Magnacide applications continue on District facilities: 8/19 Lower Cometa Lateral, 8/20 Burnett Lateral, 8/26 Fairbanks & Hirschfeld Laterals
7. The written test for the two vacant equipment operator positions was conducted on 8/18.
8. Martin/Loger Borrow Site – Draft Agreements have been completed and provided to the GM for review.
9. Field review being conducted with Engineering/Water Ops. Staff regarding upcoming future Capital Projects.
10. C&M crews have installed the conduit and vault for power to the NSRR Deep Well. PG&E will conduct a final inspection this week.
11. Morrison Pipeline Project - Landowner meetings have been conducted prior to commencement of the project. C&M crews started to clear and grub the site on 8/29 and will start to install the pipeline next.

## **Water Operations Activities**

### **Engineering**

1. Land use Conversion – Continued to work with landowners, tenants, irrigation design companies and Support Services/Water Operations concerning ongoing and future land use conversion projects.
2. At the request of the Kimberly Nilsson, formerly Kimberly Riggs, OID staff is proceeding with processing an Encroachment Agreement for the existing improvements within the Townhill PL ROW. The draft Record of Survey is under review by the County before it can be officially recorded and referenced as an exhibit in the final Encroachment Agreement.
3. The Service Contract for the new electrical service connection to the NSRR Deep Well was received, executed and returned to PG&E on or about August 26<sup>th</sup>.
4. The next STRGBA meeting scheduled for August 7<sup>th</sup> was postponed to September 4<sup>th</sup>. A draft RFP is anticipated to be ready for review within the next few weeks.
5. Attended the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting on August 28<sup>th</sup>. The County was presented with the TAC's recommendation to form a new group (JPA, LGME, etc.) representing groundwater management countywide through cooperation and coordination of the GW management entities already in existence in each basin. Under this scenario the County is envisioned to participate as an equal partner and representative of the "white areas".
6. Continued to process Request for Work Approvals, plans and cost estimates as needed for construction and maintenance projects.
7. Final burrowing owl assessment and surveys for the Morrison Pipeline project were conducted on 08-25-14 and 08-28-14 as recommended by the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife.
8. Landowner meetings continued with the C&M Manager and Engineering Dept. staff in order to finalize and/or proceed with construction plans and specifications for 2014-15 winter projects.

### **Ag Water**

1. Continued to research and respond to numerous miscellaneous irrigation and maintenance issues and inquiries.
2. SCADA integration and modification work continued on new and existing automated and remote monitoring sites.
3. The DSOs and Supervisors continued to work with farmers district-wide to document, minimize and address various irrigation, drainage and conveyance issues.
4. Water diversions in comparison to last season are trending toward another 4,000 acre feet less during the month of August. If that holds true, the diversions at Goodwin through the end of August will have been a total of 36,000 acre feet less than they were last irrigation season.
5. The thirteenth rotation of 2014 (fourteenth of the 2013-14 water year) began on or about August 26<sup>th</sup>. This will be a 16-day rotation and followed by a 20-day rotation starting on or about September 11<sup>th</sup>.

### **Water Utilities**

1. Improvement District No. 41:
  - Pumping Station No. 3 remains out of service due to high turbidity issues.



- The City of Oakdale has indicated that they are willing to accept less than the \$15,000 deposit to start their review of the requirements for a connection to the City's water system. OID staff is working with the City to submit payment on behalf of the Improvement District.
2. Domestic Water Pumping Stations:
    - Staff continues to conduct weekly inspection, servicing and security checks of the pumping stations. There is nothing unusual or out of the ordinary to report.
  3. Domestic Water Systems:
    - Chromium VI water quality tests results for the samples collected on August 4<sup>th</sup> were all within acceptable limits.
  4. Rural Water System No. 1:
    - Staff has begun replacing water meters as part of the WUD's annual meter replacement program.
  5. On-Call Activities:
    - Nothing to Report.
  6. Irrigation Pumping Stations:
    - Staff continues to conduct weekly inspection, servicing and security checks of the pumping stations. There is nothing unusual or out of the ordinary to report other than the items listed below:
      - Brady River Pump – Is non-operational due to low river water levels.
      - Crawford River Pump – Is marginally operational due to low river water levels.
    - Workman #2 Reclamation Pump was out of service from August 18<sup>th</sup> to August 28<sup>th</sup> due to motor failure.
    - Staff continues to conduct weekly inspection, servicing and security checks of the pumping stations. There is nothing unusual or out of the ordinary to report.
    - The Crawford River Pump was removed from service on Monday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, for motor bearing failure. It was returned to service on Tuesday, August 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **Financing Activities**

1. 2015 Budget preparation.
2. Preparation of Prop 218 Notice. Notices were mailed out on August 28, 2014.
3. Continue to meet with OE3 on reviewing revised PR&Rs.
4. Assisting General Manager in Union negotiations.
5. Interviewed by Standard and Poor's rating agent on August 18, 2014. The S&P's rating committee affirmed the District's rating.
6. Working on new billing software implementation.
7. Routine accounting functions (AP, AR, PR, billing, reconciliations, etc.)

### **B. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

There were no Committee Meetings.

### **C. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS**

#### **Director Webb**

Director Webb stated that we need to place on the agenda an item to discuss getting District constituents back on surface water and off of groundwater.

At the hour of 10:27 a.m. the meeting adjourned to Closed Session.

**CLOSED SESSION**  
**ITEM NO. 13**

- A. Government Code §54956.9(b)** - Anticipated Litigation  
Two (2) Cases
  
- B. Government Code §54957.6** – Conference with Labor Negotiator  
Agency Negotiator: General Manager  
Unrepresented Employee Organization: Operations Employees

At the hour of 11:23 a.m. the meeting returned to open session.

Coming out Closed Session President Webb stated that there was no reportable action.

**OTHER ACTION**  
**ITEM NO. 19**

The meeting adjourned at the hour of 11:23 a.m. The next Regular Board Meeting of the **Oakdale Irrigation District Board of Directors** is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 16, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.** in the board room at 1205 East F Street, Oakdale, CA.

The next Joint Board Meeting for the **Tri-Dam Project** is scheduled for **Thursday, September 18, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.** in the board room of the South San Joaquin Irrigation District, 11011 East Highway 120, Manteca, CA.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Steve Webb, President

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Steve Knell, P.E., Secretary